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Toys R Us Partners with DWS

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Toys R Us has agreed to a national partnership with the Department of Labor (DOL) to work with the federal and state employment services to connect local job candidates with local employers. The partnership comes at a time when many retail businesses are gearing up to hire for the holidays.

In the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) North Region, response from Toys R Us has been favorable. Debbie Sheldon, in the Roy Employment Center (EC), has been working with the Riverdale Toys R Us store to assist them with their seasonal hires. The company utilized the Roy EC's interview rooms each week for six weeks to obtain their seasonal hires. Debbie wrote and managed the job orders for Toys R Us as well as scheduling the weekly interviews for them. "Debbie was willing to do anything asked of her throughout the whole process and made us feel at home when we were on site interviewing," said Becky Wallace, Riverdale Toys R Us Personnel Manager.



The partnership also appears to be working smoothly in the Davis County area. Becky Wiggill and Veneta Wood have been working with the Toys R Us in Layton. Toys R Us has expressed its appreciation to the Clearfield EC for the services they have received. Toys R Us in Layton has also utilized interview rooms in the Clearfield EC and expressed an interest in utilizing the new jobs.utah.gov self-directed employer services as well.

This is shaping up to be a rewarding partnership for both sides. Toys R Us has obtained quality seasonal hires and DWS has been able to assist many local job seekers in finding employment. DWS will look forward to creating similar partnerships in the future.

State of Utah

Department of Workforce Services



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Riverdale City - A Fast Growing Metropolis

Riverdale City has grown substantially in the last few years. Many new businesses have cropped up along Riverdale Road. "Newer business have found this to be a favorable city to relocate to because of the support of the Riverdale City Council and Planning Commission as well as the easy freeway access for consumers," according to Randy Daily, Riverdale City Community Development Administrator. Daily indicates that the city treats developers with respect and is willing to be flexible on some development issues.

Within the last year alone, several new businesses have surfaced including: Best Buy Electronics, Pier One Imports, Super Walmart, Sam's Club, Petco, Deseret Books and Michael's Stores to name a few. Several other businesses are slated

to open their doors within the next few months as well. These businesses include Olive Garden, IHOP and Meier & Frank.

According to Daily, Riverdale City still has space available for commercial businesses. Some of this space comes from older businesses that are available for redevelopment. Riverdale City is also exploring options including zoning reclassifications to attract high-end businesses.

As for the traffic on Riverdale Road, Daily replies, "It [traffic] is getting busy everywhere." We [the business clients and consumers] have to change our thinking and plan for an extra five minutes because "times have changed and growth is good."

State of Utah Launches jobs.utah.gov

After more than three years in production, jobs.utah.gov, the state of Utah's cutting-edge, online, and self-directed job matching system was unveiled. Perhaps the most sophisticated public system of its kind on the World Wide Web, it allows job seekers and employers to instantly find each other. Your next "employee of the month" could be just clicks away!



Governor Mike Leavitt activated jobs.utah.gov at a ceremony at United Parcel Service in West Valley City on 4 November 2002, day 274 of the Governor's 1000-Day Plan. jobs.utah.gov is an integral tool for accomplishing a fundamental tenet of the 1000-Day Plan, the availability of quality jobs statewide, because it is a platform for bringing together qualified job seekers and hiring employers for their mutual benefit and the economic prosperity of the state. Governor Leavitt commented that the launch of jobs.utah.gov is a significant step toward realizing his vision that Utah state government "will enable people to conduct business with government online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year." jobs.utah.gov was developed and is maintained by the Department of Workforce Services, "Utah's Job Connection."

Employers looking to hire can register on jobs.utah.gov in just minutes, enter job orders (or descriptions of the positions they wish to fill, complete with the necessary qualifications), and begin searching the database of résumés immediately. Similarly, job seekers can register upon logging on, enter their résumés, and begin searching for a job. And, both can save their progress so that when they login later, they can start where they last left off. This online recruitment system is available at no fee.

Plus, all users have access to the online helpdesk to handle any inquiries or problems that may arise. Finding a job or filling one just got a lot easier in Utah. jobs.utah.gov is certain to help countless job seekers to provide for themselves and their families, as well as Utah businesses to grow and increase their bottom lines.

SIC is Gone, NAICS is Here!

News from the Workforce Information Division

What's the Big Deal?

Changing to the new coding system for industries (the North American Industry Classification System, or NAICS) is a complete break from the old system (Standard Industrial Classification, or SIC). Businesses are being reclassified, and tax breaks or favors extended to specific industries through legislative initiatives will have to be redefined. Data users will find that the industrial profiling of our economy will be so different that our reservoir of historical data will become obsolete because the two systems will be incompatible. While total employment numbers will remain compatible, industrial sectors are reorganized and many are brand new under NAICS. The bottom line: Any business or government agency that uses the old SIC system will have to change.

Why change?

The old SIC system is outdated. When it was created in the 1930's, the economy was built on a foundation of Manufacturing, with other sectors, such as Services, playing a supporting role. The economy has changed drastically since then. NAICS makes substantial structural improvements over SIC, including the addition of over 350 new industries that didn't exist under SIC or in the old economy. A few examples are: cable networks, satellite communications, warehouse clubs, convenience stores, HMO medical centers, hazardous waste collection, temporary help supply, and diet and weight reducing centers.

What does NAICS Look Like?

NAICS uses a six-digit coding system to identify particular industries. The first two digits designate the industry sector, the third designates the sub-sector, the fourth designates the industry group, the fifth the NAICS industry, and the sixth designates the national industry.

Learn more about NAICS and identify your individual industry by visiting the NAICS Web sub-page on the DWS Website: <http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Naics/dwsdefault.asp>. For more information contact Dana Knold: 801 526-9469, dknold@utah.gov, or Kris Beckstead: 801 526-9475.

E-Wage Program Available

"**E-Wage** may reduce filing time by at least 50 percent, automates accurate calculations, and ensures rapid posting of quarterly wage reports. Savings will be significant for Utah employers who continue to file quarterly wage reports on paper, particularly those who are mid to large size employers," says Bill Starks, Chief of Contributions.

The **free** software, available January 1, 2003 for single user filing, will allow users to prepare their quarterly wage list by only inputting their employees' names and social security numbers once, and then entering only their wages for subsequent quarters. It maintains the wage totals in a database for calculating excess wage figures each quarter. In addition, **E-Wage** will allow users to make address changes, close and reopen accounts, change ownership, notification of releasing employees, etc. Once you've completed your wage list, **E-Wage** prepares your quarterly Employer's Contribution Report and gives you the option of submitting your reports via the Internet or on diskette. A Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) and installation of the free program, Macromedia FLASH Player, will be required to use this software. Current *JsWage* users will be able to convert existing wage files to the **E-Wage** program. **E-Wage** will also allow importing of wage information from many payroll software sources. Please call 801-526-9494 for details on this option.

E-Wage will be available free on CD ROM or may be downloaded from our Web site at: jobs.utah.gov/ui/ewage/ewage_download.asp. DWS will continue to accept wage data prepared with *JsWage* through the end of 2003.

DWS to Increase Focus on Workforce Development

Raylene Ireland, Executive Director of the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) has named Darin Brush as the Deputy Director of Workforce Development and Information.



Darin Brush

"Workforce Development is Economic Development, and that's long been part of the mission of our department," said Ireland. "We are now at the stage of evolution of this department to focus on economic development issues as a partner with private sector employers, our partners in education, and our state Department of Community and Economic Development. Mr. Brush has an exceptional background that has prepared him to take on this responsibility."

Mr. Brush has been the Director of Communications and Customer Service for the Department, and the Director of the State Council on Workforce Services, which is comprised of a majority of private sector employers.

"The Governor's 1000-day plan demonstrates a commitment to the economic vitality of our state. I'm honored at this opportunity to move workforce development into the economic development realm," said Mr. Brush. "My immediate priorities are to build on our successful Labor Market Information Division to deliver consumer driven workforce information intelligence to stakeholders and decision makers, while ensuring that we provide the highest quality services to Utah employers."

Health Insurance Tax Credit for Trade Affected Unemployment Insurance Claimants

For the first time ever, claimants who are covered under an approved petition for federal Trade Adjustment Assistance will be eligible for a tax credit off their health insurance premiums paid during the 2002 tax year. The Trade Act provides special benefits to individuals who become unemployed due to foreign competition. Anyone who believes job losses are trade affected may submit a petition to

the Department of Trade Adjustment Assistance for approval. Additional information on this program can be obtained by going to the Website: www.doleta.gov/tradeact or by contacting the DWS' Unemployment Insurance Claims Center: Salt Lake/South Davis (801) 526-4400; Weber/North Davis (801) 612-0877; Provo (801) 375-4067; other locations or out-of-state (888) 848-0688.

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October's unemployment rate for Utah dipped slightly to 5.1 percent from the 5.3 percent in September. This continues a trend of unemployment rates ranging between 5 and 6 percent during 2002. Approximately 57,538 Utahns were unemployed in October 2002, a 7.3 percent increase from the 53,618 in October of 2001, when the unemployment rate was 4.8 percent.

In North Region the unemployment rates for 2002 compared to 2001 are as follows:

**North region
Unemployment rate**

County	October 2002	October 2001
Box Elder	5.5	6.1
Cache	3.5	3.4
Rich	4.0	3.0
Weber	5.1	5.2
Morgan	3.6	4.0
Davis	4.1	4.0

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